

Appl. No. 10/624,915
Reply to Office Action of October 25, 2005

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REMARKS

In the office action of October 25, 2005, the Examiner again has required restriction between the Group I claims, that is claims 52-55 and 66-81; and the Group II claims, that is claims 82-92.

On August 5, 2005, applicant responded to the same restriction requirement (included in an office action mailed July 14, 2005) by electing the Group I claims, that is claims 52-55 and 66-81 with traverse. Applicant resubmits the election of the Group I claims and the reasons for the traverse submitted with the response on August 5, 2005.

Further, the Examiner has required an election of species among 30 different species.

Applicant has already responded to a similar election of species requirement on November 3, 2004. In particular, the Examiner made an election of species in an office action mailed October 4, 2004. In response to this earlier Election of Species Requirement, applicant elected species VI, Figs. 7 and 26, with traverse, and indicated the claims readable on this species.

Applicant submits that grouping Figs. 7 and 26 in a single species is proper as indicated by the Examiner in the previous office action mailed October 4, 2004. Thus, applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to consider the combination of Species 6 (Fig. 7) and Species 28 (Fig. 26) as a single species in view of the previous election of species requirement and the fact that a Response on the merits filed by applicant on April 28, 2005 is consistent with Figs. 7 and 26 being a single species. Applicant hereby elects this combined species of Figs. 6 and 27, with traverse. All of claims 52-55 and 66-81 read on

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this combined species. Alternatively, applicant hereby maintains this previous election of species VI, Figs. 7 and 26, with traverse. With regard to the present claims, all of claims 52-55 and 66-81 read on species VI, Figs. 7 and 26.

In view of the above, applicant submits that the present Response is fully responsive to the office action mailed October 25, 2005. Moreover, in view of the redundant nature of the present office action, as outlined above, applicant submits that the above-noted previous responses to the previous restriction requirement and election of species requirement suffice for responding to the present office action.

Further, Examiner Patel was called on November 14, 2005 by applicant's attorney and was advised that applicant had already responded to the same or similar restriction requirement and election of species requirement. Examiner Patel said he would get back to applicant's attorney. On November 18, 2005, applicant's attorney again called Examiner Patel and left a message stating that Examiner Patel had not called, requesting again that the Examiner review the file of the above-identified application regarding the restriction requirement and election of species requirement, and further requesting the Examiner to call applicant's attorney. To date, Examiner Patel has not responded to the applicant's message.

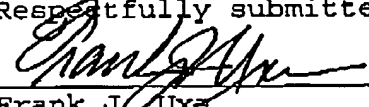
Applicant respectfully requests that the prosecution of the above-identified application proceed as promptly as possible, that the Examiner substantively consider the Response on the merits filed by applicant on April 28, 2005, and that a favorable holding of allowability be provided.

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Should any matters remain unresolved, applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to call (collect) applicant's attorney at the telephone number given below.

Date: 11/23/05

Respectfully submitted,



Frank J. Uxa
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 25,612
4 Venture, Suite 300
Irvine, California 92618
(949) 450-1750
(949) 450-1764 Facsimile